GAO
Accountability * Integrity * Reliability

Protective Suit Inventory Requirements

Worldwide Chemical Conference
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO
October 23, 2003

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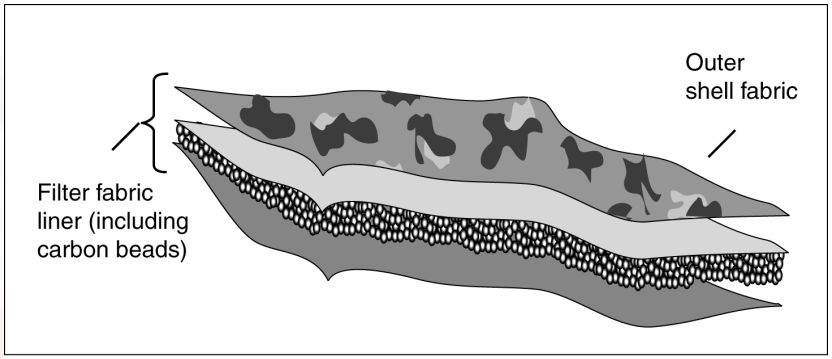
JSLIST Ensemble

Source: The Army's Soldier Biological and Chemical Command.

- Only DOD suit in production
- All services, all climates, compatible with other IPE
- Advantages over BDO/CPO:
  - Enhanced suit enclosures
  - 45 vs 30 continuous wear days
  - Increased mobility
  - Reduced heat stress

Carbon Beads and Filter Fabric are Critical Suit Components



Source: GAO illustration based on DOD information.

- Reliance on sole-source, foreign-based suppliers
- Beads → Japanese owned and produced
- Fabric → German owned and 67% produced
- Congressional mandate to seek alternative sources
- Exemplary performance by suppliers to date

Unknown Whether DOD Has Enough Suits to Meet Its Wartime R

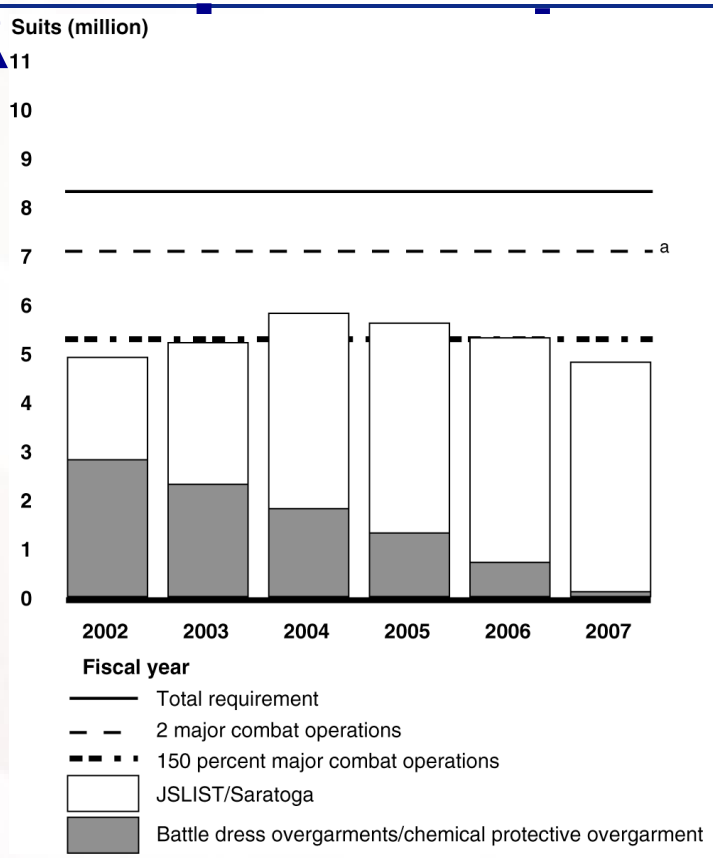
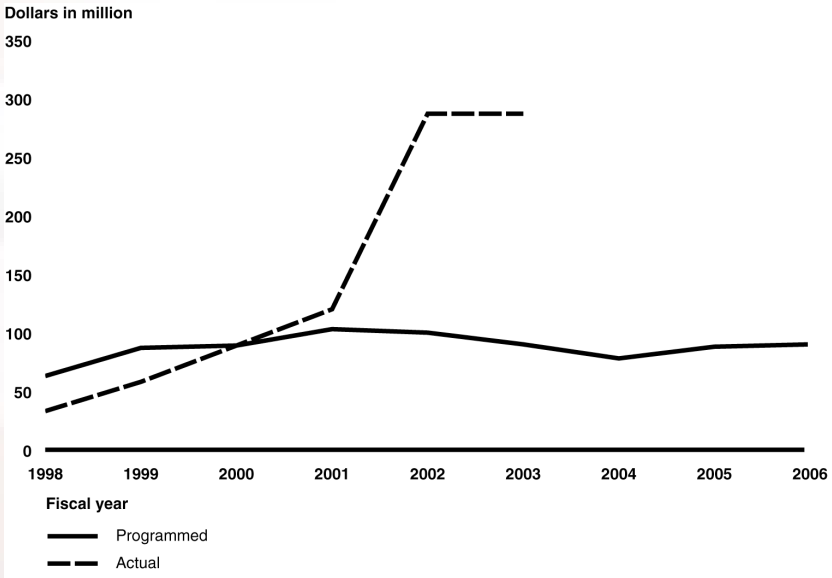


Figure does not include suits consumed in Iraq.

Contributing/Confounding Factors

- Expiring BDOs
- Usage in Iraq
- Assumptions for developing wartime consumption rates are outdated
- Lack of DOD-wide inventory management system
- Ordering delays avoids O&M $
- Other Adjustments
- **2 MCO scenario under review**

Inconsistent Suit Funding Reduced Planning & Programming Efficiency

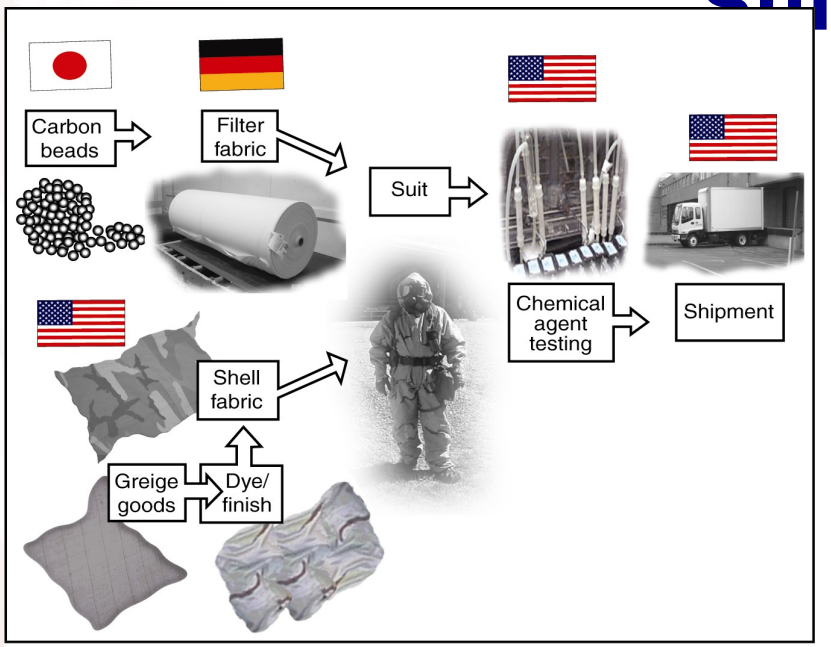


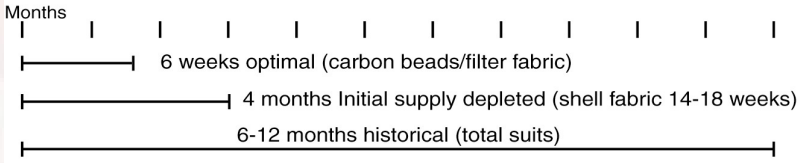
Source: GAO's analysis of Defense Supply Center Philadelphia data and the Joint Service Chemical and Biological Defense Research Development, and Acquisition Plan for Fiscal Year 2003-2017.

Note: Fiscal Year 2003 funding is through May 2003.

- Plan: similar annual buys over 14-year period
- Actual: Inconsistent and Unpredictable Funding
  - Adversely affects suit production planning
  - Uneven expiration rate
- Causes of inconsistent funding
  - Changing priorities in DOD
  - Service, end-of-year buys
  - Replace suits used in Iraq

JSLIST Suit Production Pathway
How Much Time to Produce 10,000 Suits?




Months
6 weeks optimal (carbon beads/filter fabric)
4 months Initial supply depleted (shell fabric 14-18 weeks)
6-12 months historical (total suits)

Source: GAO analysis of industry data.

Risk Factors:

- Dependence on sole-source, foreign suppliers
- Potential time gap between suit inventory exhausted & resupply
- Beads & fabric, once ordered, can take months to receive
- No stockpile of beads/fabric

GAO Recommendations to DOD Included:

- Decide which wartime strategy to use as the basis for future suit acquisition and funding decisions
- Expedite approval of illustrative planning scenarios to derive wartime suit consumption rates
- Increase consistency and predictability of funding (e.g., obligate procurement funds over a 3-year period).
- Reconsider establishing a stockpile of carbon beads, filter fabric, or a combination of the two.

DOD concurred with these recommendations.